

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6170

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 4620

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PL, US, OVIP(GERALD R FORD)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: BACKGROUND ON DIVIDED FAMILIES
AND EMIGRATION

REF: STATE 165218, PARA 8

1. BACKGROUND. ALTHOUGH THE POLISH RECORD ON IMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN RELATIVELY GOOD, IN RECENT YEARS THE NUMBER OF POLISH IMIGRANTS TO THE UNITED STATES HAS DROPPED FROM AN ANNUAL AVERAGE OF OVER SIX THOUSAND TO ABOUT TWO THOUSAND. THERE IS NOW A BACKLOG OF 24,000 INTENDING IMMIGRANTS TO THE UNITED STATES, OF WHOM 19,000 ARE THE SPOUSES, MINOR CHILDREN, ADULT CHILDREN, PARENTS, OR BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS. SINCE JANUARY 1, 1974, THE EMBASSY HAS SUBMITTED 12 REPRESENTATION LISTS TO THE POLISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COVERING OVER 1,900 INDIVIDUALS. THUS FAR, LESS THAN 15 PER CENT OF THESE HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO LEAVE POLAND TO JOIN THEIR RELATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES.

2. POLISH POSITION. THE GOP DOES NOT OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE THE EXISTENCE OF A DIVIDED-FAMILIES PROBLEM. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SAYS THAT ALL APPLICATIONS ARE PROCESSED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AND FAMILY CONSIDERATIONS ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE NORMAL PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS.

3. US POSITION. WE BELIEVE THAT THE GOP'S POLICY ON EMIGRATION HAS BECOME TOO RESTRICTIVE AND THAT WE
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SHOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO THEM TO

RETURN TO THEIR MORE LIBERAL EARLIER POLICIES BY
POINTING OUT TO THEM THE POTENTIAL PROBLEM INHERENT IN
THEIR CURRENT POLICIES. IN ITS REVIEW OF THE WARSAW
EMBASSY'S 1975 POLICY ASSESSMENT (REF), AN INTERAGENCY
GROUP WAS APPREHENSIVE THAT THE GOP'S FAILURE TO MOVE
MORE RAPIDLY ON THE DIVIDED-FAMILIES ISSUE COULD CHANGE
FROM AN IRRITANT TO A PROBLEM IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. RECOMMENDATION. WE SHOULD POINT OUT THAT EMIGRATION
HAS NOT BEEN A PROBLEM IN OUR RELATIONS AND EXPRESS THE
STRONG HOPE THAT THE GOP WILL BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN
CASES OF DIVIDED FAMILIES AND EMIGRATION IN GENERAL, SO
THAT IT WILL NOT BECOME A PROBLEM.

DAVIES

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